

M I N U T E S

MONDAY, June 9, 2008 – 8:00 a.m.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

McEaddy Conference Room
12th Floor, 301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Members Present:

James Barr
Barbara Cheives
Douglas Duncan
George Elmore
Carey Haughwout
Feirmon Johnson
Randolph K. Johnson, Sr.
Richard Staudinger

Members Absent:

Ric Bradshaw
Barry Krischer
Kathleen Kroll
Stephen Stepp

Art Johnson (ex officio Exec. Committee)
Harry Johnston, II (ex officio Exec. Committee)

Guests Attending:

Cristy Altaro, Court Administration
Nicole Saunders, Justice Services

Staff Present:

Michael L. Rodriguez, Executive Director
Journey Beard, Crime Prevention Project Specialist
Arlene Burton-Griffiths, Administrative Secretary
Wayne English, Sr. Criminal Justice Analyst
Katherine Hatos, Criminal Justice Analyst
Damir Kukec, Research & Planning Manager
Rosalind Murray, Program Development Specialist
Glenna Nowalk, Clerical Specialist
Brenda Oakes, Youth Violence Prevention Planning Coordinator
Kristie Slinsky, Student Intern
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Programs Manager

- I. Chairman Barr called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Chairman Barr welcomed members and invited guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. The agenda was unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Duncan and second by Mr. R. Johnson.

- V. The minutes of the May 12, 2008 Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Mr. Elmore and second by Mr. Duncan.
- VI. Under Chairman's comments, Chair Barr:
 - A. Encouraged CJC executive members and guests to use microphone when speaking so that persons can hear clearly.
 - B. Reminded members that there will be no full CJC meeting during the months of June, July and August, but will call a meeting if the need arise. Full Commission meetings resume in September.
- VII. Under Executive Director's Comments, Mr. Rodriguez:
 - A. Reminded members and guests of CJC's 20th Anniversary celebration on August 11, 2008 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. followed by the regular Executive Committee meeting. All CJC members are invited to attend.
 - B. Informed the meeting that the CJC S.T.Y.L.E. Super Group won the 2008 Racial Justice Award sponsored by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), which traditionally, is given to ordinary people doing extra ordinary work in the area of racial justice. He thanked Journey Beard for the hard work she is doing with the group.
 - C. Thanked Max Davis and Harry Johnston for their assistance in obtaining tickets for members of the Youth Super Group to attend the Norton Museum of Art's *Kinsey Collection* entitled, "**In the Hands of African American Collectors: The Personal Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey**". The exhibit features over 90 objects, and offers a sampling of the treasures held by the Kinseys.
- VIII. Under New Business
 - A. Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager requested \$50,000 to contract with an expert to support the Commission's evaluation of select criminal justice programs in Palm Beach County. He said the expert would be commissioned to complete an extensive literature review of the crime prevention and innovative court program evaluations and propose a set of statistical models to measure the combined impact of select programs in Palm Beach, as well as provide advice concerning the evaluation framework and implementation of the statistical tests.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the \$50,000 would be taken primarily from unspent funds in the regular CJC administrative budget, 07/08 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Johnston inquired about the criteria for the person to be hired and the process that would be used, to which Mr. Kukec responded that a Request for Proposal (RFP) would be done through the county for someone with extensive experience in crime prevention, as well as extensive knowledge and experience with, statistical methods.

Mr. Elmore inquired whether the proposal was to hire a person or a company and questioned why this was needed.

Mr. Kukec advised that although the Research and Planning Unit could do the evaluation instead of using a consultant; contracting out the entire evaluation would

be less costly and take less time to be complete. He noted that rationale for undertaking to contract with an expert as follows: a) staff would benefit in terms of human resources support and expertise; b) staff would be able to provide services for on-going work related to task forces and committees; c) would be less costly; d) give credibility to the evaluation method, analysis and findings. He also believes that a review of the final product by outside academics would add credibility.

According to Mr. Johnston, this would not result in an independent evaluation but rather paying someone to help the CJC, remarking that he would much prefer if an outsider carry out an independent evaluation of all the programs.

Mr. Staudinger asked what was driving the timing of this, besides the \$50,000 that expires in September 2008. Mr. Kukec advised that there was no deadline but that he was presenting it as an effective approach that would save time and money. He also noted that CJC members and the BCC have also requested that we carry out an evaluation.

Mr. Elmore asked if staff currently evaluate all CJC programs.

Mr. Rodriguez said that while the CJC does not evaluate all of its programs, some programs are evaluated and he cited the youth empowerment centers which are currently being evaluated by FSU. He noted that the CJC have completed evaluations in the past (e.g. Community Court); but he questioned the objectivity of the studies. He thinks that the CJC should be doing evaluations since these are programs that the CJC started and maintained, but he is not sure if the programs are doing what they say they are doing. He thinks that the Commissioners will feel it is more credible if the evaluation is done by outside experts.

Dr. Johnson added that the School District tests “everything that moves”, saying they look at data every month. He said if the CJC wanted to do this in the most objective and independent way, we should hire a third party referee reviewer from the outside; otherwise he thought that what is being proposed at this time is unnecessary. He further stated that if this was looked at as a question of justification of budget, the school district and the courts could be justified, yet their budget was cut, stating that this would not prevent a budget cut given the state of the economy. He said based on what we do, if you just look at time lines, increase in crime, increase in participation, and decrease in crime, you can tell to a large extent whether it is working, especially if done on a per student or per individual cost basis, but feels we should not go through that expense. He noted that Florida Atlantic University (FAU) was hired by Broward County to look at information on the recidivism of teachers and ended up with the data they wanted, at the school district’s expense, even though the School District looked at the same data and arrived at a different conclusion. He inquired if this could be done in-house and the method that would be used if it were to be done in-house. He expressed concern that we are asking for something for which there is no budget.

Mr. Randolph Johnson asked what the CJC would be giving up in order to have the evaluation done in- house in terms of time; and whether we could make this project a priority for staff. Mr. Kukec responded that staff is currently doing the jail study which involves examining PBSO’s data, staffing the Court Systems Task Force, as well as

the continuation of the Probation Advisory Board.

At this point in the discussion, a motion to deny approval of the \$50,000 for consultancy fee was made by Mr. Duncan and seconded for discussion by Mr. Staudinger.

Ms. Cheives expressed concern with spending an extra \$50,000 to justify programs, when it could be better spent on providing additional staff support, as she thinks that staff are capable of doing the job.

Mr. Kukec commented that the purpose is not to justify but rather, to examine to what degree the programs are working - if there is duplication or if there are not enough services in the community to deal with the issues.

Dr. Johnson commented that if Mr. Kukec presented the data to the CJC on specific points of whether the programs are working or not and why, the CJC members could be the ones to present it to the Commissioners and request their support, thereby eliminating the need for an intermediary.

Mr. Staudinger noted that the Committee members seem to favor a review of the programs, but that the problem is that there is no defined program on how to do it or even an outline of an approach. He suggested that Mr. Kukec return to the CJC with a one page outline of the program, the help required, time line, and other details as to how he will proceed.

Ms. Haughwout concurred with Mr. Staudinger, adding that while evaluations are really important, we need to be able to prioritize especially in these days of limited dollars. She also supports Mr. Duncan's motion with the idea that if we come back with some specific ideas of what this is, to determine if it is worth the expenditure.

Mr. Rodriguez clarified that Mr. Kukec drafted an extensive scope of work which was not included in the agenda package because it was still being discussed.

Chair Barr advised that the motion to deny funding of \$50,000 would include the amendment deny at this time, but to bring it back to the Executive meeting after additional information is provided, for further consideration. Motion was unanimously approved by members.

- B. Members unanimously approved change in funding status for Juvenile Drug Court after a motion by Mr. George Elmore and a second by Ms. Cheives.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that the original request that was presented in a prior meeting was for a recommendation to provide the funds to the 15th Judicial Circuit, but Justice Services has now decided that they would be in a better position to administer the funds for the treatment dollars, hence the request to switch where the funds are sent.

- C. Members unanimously approved letter of support for PBSO to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for \$100,000 for a Gang Coordination Assistance Grant after motion by Mr. George Elmore and second by Mr. Randy Johnson.

Ms. Walker noted that she has been working with PBSO and that the grant will allow the hiring of an individual to coordinate with law enforcement and other agencies to for greater collaboration. She said that the CJC will be involved with the grant and the hiring of the individual who will be a civilian, stationed at the Sheriff's Office, but

working with the community.

- D. Mr. Rodriguez reported that in a previous meeting, he presented the incorrect grant amount to members. He has recently received notification of the actual Byrne JAG Grant award in the amount of \$94,140.00, representing approximately 67% less than the previous year. This, he said, is budgeted for the COMBAT program, COMBAT Prosecutors, and the Ex-offenders Re-entry Program.

Members unanimously approved moving forward with the grant for presentation to the BCC, after a motion by Mr. Richard Staudinger and a second by Mr. Randy Johnson.

IX. CJC Initiatives/Updates

- A. Mr. Rodriguez reported that the BCC will be having budget hearings in June and that an update on CJC's position would be provided at the July meeting.

Mr. Elmore question why the CJC should suffer a 5% budget cut, when the County Administrator announced that there would be an increase of 8% in ad valorem.

Mr. Rodriguez remarked that he was not aware of the announcement and promised to obtain more information in this regard.

- B. Ms. Oakes reported that the Belle Glade City Council voted on May 27, 2008 to contract out their Youth Empowerment Center to Clear Options, a non-profit organization. This was done without a competitive bid process, and she admitted not having much knowledge about the company. She said a list of issues to be addressed was sent to the city commissioners and staff, and she is awaiting their response. A location is yet to be identified but she said they were exploring two churches as a possibility, but that they were advised that the center would be up and running by the end of June. This, she said, left the CJC "hanging" as staff has been working towards setting up a trailer in Belle Glade for housing the center, and in the process of obtaining necessary permits. She also mentioned that several organizations had expressed interest in working with the center, but may not be now, with the new direction.

Dr. Johnson suggested that the CJC proceed with previous plans since Belle Glade has no money, at which point Mr. Rodriguez advised that a contract with the city was in place and we would therefore require legal advice before moving forward.

Mr. Johnston asked if the CJC would be going back to the BCC, as he recalls the Commissioners suggesting that they were willing to work with Belle Glade and other cities, only if they (the cities) were providing some contribution as they (the BCC) would not provide 100% funding.

Ms. Cheives questioned how a city without money could determine how to spend the CJC's money. She reminded the meeting that during the CJC's presentation to the BCC, Commissioners Santamaria and Koons committed to having the center up and running within 60 days, and asked if they were involved in the process.

Ms. Walker remarked that the Boys and Girls Club would be a better option than using the schools for the center, as there are several issues with the particular school being considered.

After further discussion on the subject, members agreed to have the County's legal

team review the contract to determine the CJC's options, and to schedule a meeting with all stakeholders to determine how to proceed.

- C. Mr. Rodriguez presented the gang matrix indicating a list of initiatives being done throughout the county, related to gangs. He said that staff would be doing further work with the matrix, and bringing it back to members, but asked members to review it and provide feedback.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.